

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
David H. Jaffe,
Senior Project Manager, Section 1, Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.
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OFFICE OF THE TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Notification of Locations and Times for Public Hearings

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

ACTION: Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) notification of locations and times for public hearings.

SUMMARY: A notice was published in the *Federal Register* on April 14, 1999 (Vol. 64, No. 71, page 18469) announcing TPSC public hearings to be held in Washington, DC; Chicago, IL; Atlanta, GA; Los Angeles, CA; and Dallas, TX. That notice invited oral testimony and/or written comments of interested parties to assist the Administration in its efforts to develop proposals and positions concerning the agenda of the third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This notice announces the specific times and locations for the hearings in each city.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public comments and/or public hearings contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative at (202) 395-3475. All other questions concerning the WTO negotiations should be addressed to the agency's Office of WTO and Multilateral Affairs at (202) 395-6843.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All hearings will begin at 9:30 a.m. Following receipt of requests to testify, witnesses will be notified directly of their scheduled date and time to appear. The exact locations of the hearings are as follows:

Washington, May 19-20 (and 21, if necessary): White House Conference Center, Truman Room, 726 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20502
 Chicago, June 7 (and 8, if necessary): James R. Thompson Center, Room 9-040, 100 West Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60601
 Atlanta, June 10 (and 11, if necessary): Richard B. Russell Federal Building, Main Auditorium, 75 Spring Street, Southwest, Atlanta, GA 30303
 Los Angeles, June 21 (and 22, if necessary): Central Library, Los

Angeles Public Library, Mark Taper Auditorium, 630 West Fifth Street, Los Angeles, California 90071
 Dallas, June 24 (and 25, if necessary): Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Auditorium, 2200 North Pearl Street, Dallas, Texas 75210

All deadlines remain the same as stated in the previous notice.

Frederick L. Montgomery,
Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.
 [FR Doc. 99-11931 Filed 5-11-99; 8:45 am]
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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Annual Report on Discrimination in Foreign Government Procurement Pursuant to Executive Order 13116 ("Title VII")

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the United States Trade Representative ("USTR") has submitted the annual report on discrimination in foreign government procurement, published herein, to the Committees on Finance and on Governmental Affairs of the United States Senate and the Committees on Ways and Means and on Government Reform and Oversight of the United States House of Representatives, pursuant to the reinstituted procedures of Title VII of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 ("Title VII"), as amended, as set forth in Executive Order No. 13116 of March 31, 1999.

DATES: The report was submitted on April 30, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen Kho, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the US Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508, 202-395-3581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The text of the USTR report is as follows:

Office of the United States Trade Representative, Washington, DC

April 30, 1999

Annual Report on Discrimination in Foreign Government Procurement

I. Legal Authority

On March 31, 1999, the President signed Executive Order 13116, which largely reinstitutes the provisions of Title VII of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 ("Title VII"), as amended. Under the Executive

Order, the United States Trade Representative ("USTR") is required to submit to the Congress by April 30 of each year a report identifying foreign countries:

(1) That have failed to comply with their obligations under the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement ("GPA"), Chapter 10 of the North American Free Trade Agreement, or other agreements relating to government procurement to which that country and the United States are parties; or

(2) That maintain, in government procurement, a significant pattern or practice of discrimination against U.S. products or services which results in identifiable harm to U.S. businesses, when those countries' products or services are acquired in significant amounts by the U.S. Government.

Within 90 days of the submission of the report, USTR must initiate under section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, an investigation with respect to any country identified in the report, unless USTR determines that a satisfactory resolution of the matter has been achieved. If the matter is not resolved during that period and USTR determines that the rights of the United States under an international procurement agreement are being violated, or that any discriminatory procurement practices exist, the Executive Order requires USTR, *inter alia*, to initiate formal dispute settlement proceedings under the international agreement in question or revoke any waivers for purchasing requirements granted to the discriminating foreign country.

Title VII has been a useful and effective tool in challenging foreign governments' procurement barriers. The reinstitution of Title VII procedures through Executive Order 13116 sends a strong signal that the President is committed to protecting U.S. interests in international procurement markets.

II. Identification of Foreign Countries and their Discriminatory Procurement Practices

From 1991 to 1996, USTR conducted six annual reviews under Title VII. During that time, six identifications were formally made, while numerous potentially discriminatory government procurement practices were noted. USTR achieved satisfactory resolution with respect to eight discriminatory or potentially discriminatory practices, including a GATT dispute settlement proceeding, with regard to the procurement of an electronic toll booth collection system in Norway, in which the panel found in favor of the United States.